

How Would My Life Be Different? *Proverbs 2*

Introduction: Today we continue our study out of the book of Proverbs. Proverbs 2 urges us to seek after wisdom because in doing so our lives truly can be different. Wisdom is readily available for us, but we must intentionally seek it.

Opening Discussion: What is an area of your life in which you need wisdom?

Read Proverbs 2:1-6

1. In verses 1-4, what attitude toward wisdom and instruction is the father urging upon his son?

Steve said:

We seek/pursue the things we really, really want. We expend time, energy, and money pursuing the things that we really want. You can probably think of things that you've sacrificed for because you considered it to be valuable. We typically invest enormous amounts of time and money and energy on education; we seek out knowledge and skills. . . . Athletes who want to be good at what they do, arrange their entire lives around a regimen of training. We expend great amounts of time, energy, and money in leisure pursuits.

I think it's beyond debate that we **can** seek after things that we deem to be valuable. The question is whether or not we really think wisdom is that valuable. Proverbs is arguing that **wisdom really is that valuable**. We should seek wisdom as if it were a treasure.

2. Can you think of ways that you have sought after something (such as education, hobbies, sports) that you deemed to be valuable?
3. Do you typically have this same passion toward seeking wisdom? Why or why not?
4. In verses 5 and 6 what is the promise to those who seek wisdom wholeheartedly?
5. Do you believe that God will give you wisdom in specific areas of your life as you seek it with a whole heart? Are you reluctant to allow yourself to believe that your life would and could actually be different?

Read Proverbs 2: 7-11

6. What do these verses say about wisdom's capacity to deliver us from the dangers we face in this life?
7. Verse 10 promises that "wisdom will enter your heart." What are the practical implications of having wisdom accompany us wherever we go?
8. Verses 12-15 discuss how wisdom gives deliverance from "evil men" and verses 16-19 discuss how wisdom gives deliverance from "the adulterous woman." Do you have any observations or insights into how wisdom might give such deliverance?

Steve said:

My challenge for this week is simply to seek wisdom very intentionally in a specific area of your life. Test out what we've been saying here. Let me give an example and some free advice . . . In my experience, seeking wisdom (which is ultimately the same thing as seeking God) involves three foundational things: 1) Scripture, 2) Prayer, and 3) other people. Scripture is where the wisdom is actually found. Prayer is our conversation with God – about our lives, about the contents of Scripture, requests for insight and grace, etc. Seeking God involves other people because we need the insights and encouragement that others bring to our lives. We were never meant to seek God in isolation from others; God has designed the body of Christ so that we're interdependent.

9. Does this grid for seeking wisdom seem "doable" for you? Why or why not?
10. Are you able to "purpose in your heart" to seek wisdom in some area of your life? What barriers do you face in actually seeking wisdom (vs. merely talking about seeking wisdom)?
11. As you think about the area in your life in which you need to seek wisdom, do you have a picture of how your life might be different if you actually had wisdom in that area of your life?